



Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

National Park Service News Release

For Release- Immediately

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Mississippi River Park wins national volunteer award

Saint Paul, MN- The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area has won the prestigious George and Helen Hartzog Jr. award for the most outstanding volunteer program in the entire National Park Service, beating out over 400 other National Parks in 2015. The George and Helen Hartzog Awards recognizing volunteers for the hard work, vast skills, and contributions that lead to development of innovative projects and volunteer involvement. To learn more about the awards visit: <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/hartzog-awards.htm>

"This award is a testament to our volunteers and to the joint volunteer program of the park and its partner, Mississippi Park Connection," said John O. Anfinson, the park's Superintendent. "It is especially gratifying to win this award," he added, "during the National Park's Centennial year".

"I want to help the Mississippi River!" are words echoed throughout this national park, as thousands of volunteers improve habitat, educate youth, conduct citizen science and facilitate community engagement. In 2015, the program grew to include 8,600 volunteers, an impressive increase of 34%. The park volunteer program works with two dozen partner organizations and their volunteer programs.

Whether it's connecting with urban youth, restoring habitat, facilitating community engagement, or working with partners, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and Mississippi Park Connection volunteer program provides a fun and beneficial way for people to connect with and improve the Mississippi River. The park's volunteer program was chosen among hundreds of other volunteer programs across the country, and won because of the dedication of Minnesotans to the Mississippi River. To volunteer or to learn more about the park visit www.nps.gov/miss or www.parkconnection.org.